

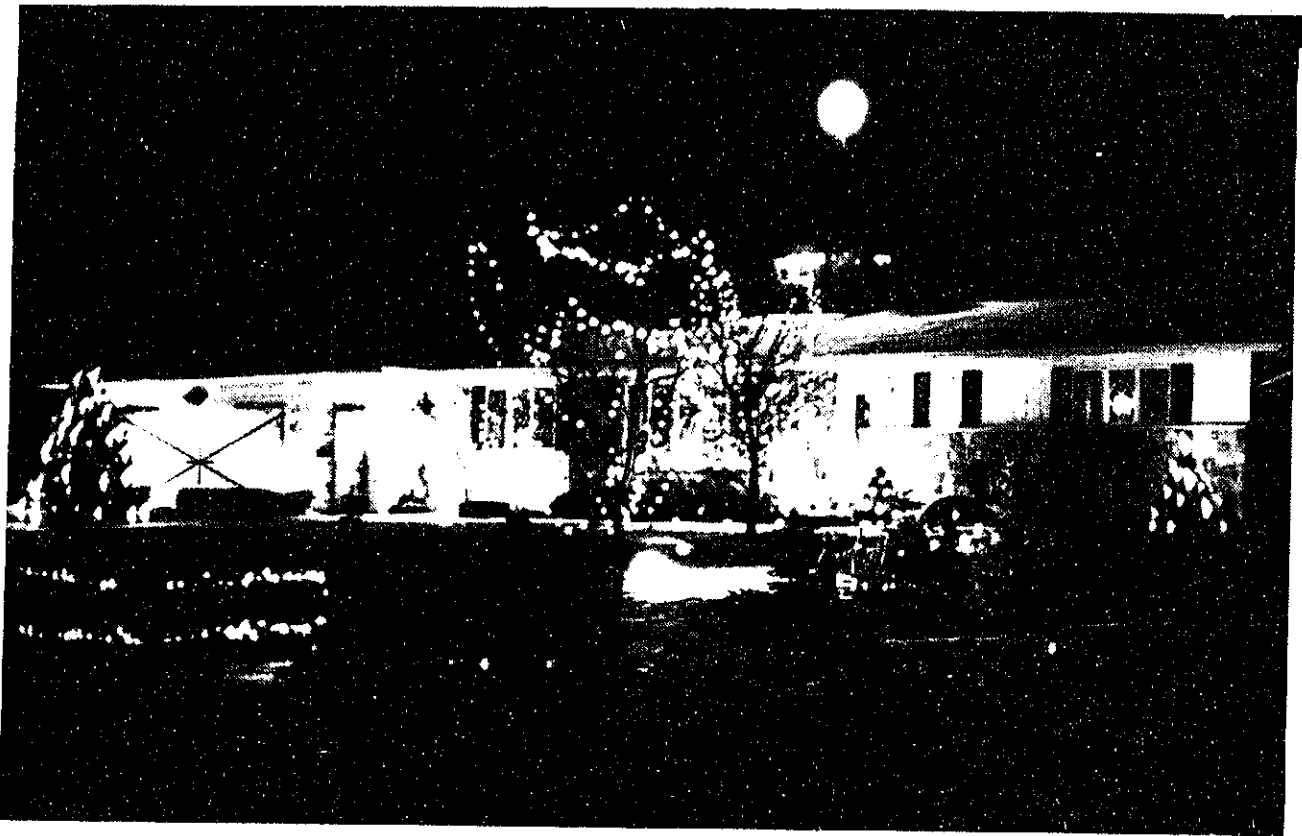
# Citizens show spirit of Christmas



**SILENT NIGHT** -- Members of the youth groups at the Shabbona, Decker and Elmer United Methodist churches presented this live nativity scene Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6-9 on M-53, 3½ miles south of M-81.



**ROCKING REINDEER** -- Mike Bigelow's reindeer rock back and forth as they "pull" Santa's sleigh. The display is at the corner of Pine and Woodland Streets. Bigelow has the deer rocking during the day as well as in the evening. Parts of the display date back 30 years and were built by his father in Flushing. Bigelow brought the display to Cass City after having moved here in May.



**LIGHT UP FOR CHRISTMAS** -- Maynard Helwig's display of Christmas lights each year is always a spectacular one. His home is on Virginia Drive, between Huron and Hunt Streets.

## Reese man gets nabbed after dumping trash bags

Thou shall not litter. Darwin H. Sanada of Reese did and it cost him \$50 in district court Monday.

The case goes back to Nov. 11, when Dolores Trisch of Colwood Road, Caro, contacted Caro state police. She reported some friends had seen a person dump several

bags of trash on her farm property at Clark and Hover Roads, north of Akron.

Troopers went to the scene, went through the trash and found several letters and pay stubs with an address.

They went to the address and found the couple living

there had just moved to Reese.

At the new address, the suspect, his vehicle and trailer all matched the description supplied by witnesses who saw the trash being dumped.

A warrant was obtained from the prosecutor's office charging Sanada with litter-

ing. He pleaded guilty to the charge Monday before District Judge Richard F. Kern, who fined him \$30 and assessed \$20 court costs. He was also placed on three months' probation and ordered to make restitution by picking up the trash he had dumped.

*'Realistic and reasonable'*

## Judge rules state must ease prison overcrowding

An Ingham County Circuit Court judge has ordered the state by the beginning of 1981 to ease its prison overcrowding problem.

As a result of a lawsuit filed by East Lansing attorney Zolton Ferency, Judge Ray Hotchkiss ordered the state to expand its 11,738 inmate capacity of its prisons by moving its least

dangerous prisoners into temporary housing and by using prison space where no inmates are now kept.

The order also requires the state to reduce its inmate population to 12,013 by Jan. 1.

As of Oct. 22, state prisons held 13,140 inmates, while another 1,968 were residing in halfway houses and alternative corrections facilities or programs.

Hotchkiss said prison population could be better controlled through the use of alternatives to maximum security cells.

He suggested that if the population goes above 13,013, consideration should be given to increased use of parole, liberalized standards for revoking parole and expanded use of halfway houses and other community alternatives.

HE ADDED THAT IN NO case should a prisoner who would likely constitute a menace to society or public safety be paroled early or allowed to remain free following any parole violation.

The Hotchkiss order also blocked the state from housing prisoners after Jan. 1 in county jails which don't meet national standards for prisons, except to cope with a "serious prison disturbance." Jails could then be used for a maximum of 60 days.

The judge called the order "realistic and reasonable" and would not involve any massive expenditure by the Department of Corrections.

PERRY JOHNSON, Director of the Department of Corrections, said the court order was evidence that the state has a serious crowding problem that cannot be further delayed. He called the order only a short-term solution to the overall problem.

"The solution offered in this order cannot control the problem indefinitely, they only gave us breathing room to take the steps that must be taken to resolve the problem in the future," Johnson said.

**Read the labels**

It is the responsibility of every parent to read the label on medicines for specific instructions. Effective and safe self-medication of children requires a sense of responsibility and knowledge. The best source of knowledge about nonprescription medicines for self-care is on the label.

**Health agencies need cash**

*Continued from page one*

however, to compensate entirely for the loss of \$69,000 from the state, according to county mental health Director Dennis Johnson.

In 1981, the state is supposed to be providing 91.5 percent of the fund with the rest coming from the county. The county's share is supposed to increase by ½ percent a year until it reaches 10 percent.

The county board has budgeted \$38,000 for 1981 for mental health services, the same as it spent this year, so the amount that comes from Lansing is based on what the county pays.

The cut of \$69,000 was made by Lansing about 1½ months ago. There aren't supposed to be any additional reductions, Johnson said, but it's impossible to predict what will happen.

Unless someone leaves voluntarily, he expects he will have to lay off some additional staff, but who and when hasn't been decided, nor whether a reduction would be made in counseling staff or program staff.

The department has terminated a \$124,000 contract with Caro Area Services for the Handicapped to provide a work activities program, but Johnson said his agency's running its own program won't cost anything additional. Some staff were transferred and some added personnel are being paid with federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act funds.

The termination of the agreement with CASH is being challenged in a law suit filed by the Tri-County Handicapper's Coalition. A circuit court hearing in the suit was to have been held Tuesday.

has undertaken by itself action to correct overcrowding problems without a federal court ordering a reduction.

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